AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

2.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

3.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

4.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

5.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model applications or publications of utility model registrations; and

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, and the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration.

6.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculating the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

7.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculating the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

8.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculating the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

9.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculating the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

output means for outputting the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

10.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to any one of claims 6 to 9,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model applications or publications of utility model registrations,

wherein the unexamined publications are publications of unexamined patent applications, published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for patents, publications of unexamined utility model applications or published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for utility models; and

6

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration, and the patent requested for examination refers to a utility model requested for examination.

11.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

12.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent

7

applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

13.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

14. (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

15. (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

9

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed within the third specified period, and calculating the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

16.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed within the third specified period, and calculating the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

17.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed within the third specified period, and calculating the estimated examination request ratio through dividing

12

the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

18.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

13

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed within the third specified period, and calculating the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

19.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions including the number of patent applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculating the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculating a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

20.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

16

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculating the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculating a future

17

estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

21. (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent

18

applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculating the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculating a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

22.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring the number of patent applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquiring the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquiring the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculating an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculating the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring, for each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculating the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculating a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity

21

with the estimated registration ratio; and

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

23.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to any one of claims 19 to 22,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model applications or publications of utility model registrations,

wherein the unexamined publications are publications of unexamined patent applications, published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for patents, publications of unexamined utility model applications or published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for utility models; and

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration.

24.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21 or 22, wherein the predetermined technical field is a technical field classified by IPC sub-classes, keywords or inventors.

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

output means for outputting the average period required for registration to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

29.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

output means for outputting the average period required for registration to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

30.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

output means for outputting the average period required for registration to display means or the like, and

24

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period required for period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

31.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

output means for outputting the average period required for registration to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period required for registration to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

32. (Original) The enterprise evaluation program according to any one of claims 28 to 31,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model publications or publications of utility model registrations; and

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, and the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration.

33. (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating the average period before examination request,

output means for outputting the average period before examination request to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period before examination request calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period before examination request calculation means calculate a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculate the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

34.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating the average period before examination request,

27

output means for outputting the average period before examination request to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period before examination request calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period before examination request calculation means calculate a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculate the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

35.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating the average period before examination request,

output means for outputting the average period before examination request to display means or the like, and

28

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period before examination request calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period before examination request calculation means calculate a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculate the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

36. (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period before examination request calculation means for calculating the average period before examination request,

output means for outputting the average period before examination request to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, average period before examination request calculation means and output means,

29

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications requested for examination and publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a specified period;

a function for making the average period before examination request calculation means calculate a period before examination request for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a date of examination request described in the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated period before examination request by counting the calculated period before examination request for all patents requested for examination, and calculate the average period before examination request through dividing the accumulated period before examination request by the total number of patents requested for examination and the average number of days of one year or one month; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated average period before examination request to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

37.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation program according to any one of claims 33 to 36,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model applications or publications of utility model registrations,

wherein the unexamined publications are publications of unexamined patent applications, published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for patents, publications of unexamined utility model applications or published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for utility models; and

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration, and the patent requested for examination refers to a utility model requested for examination.

38.　　(Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

39.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired

publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

40.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

41.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent application productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent application productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

42.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the estimated examination request ratio,

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means, estimated examination request ratio acquisition means, examination request productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model

applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

a function for making the estimated examination request ratio acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed within the third specified period, and calculate the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

a function for making the examination request productivity calculation means calculate the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

43.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the estimated examination request ratio,

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means, estimated examination request ratio acquisition means, examination request productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired

publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

a function for making the estimated examination request ratio acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications filed within the third specified period, and calculate the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

a function for making the examination request productivity calculation means calculate the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

44.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the estimated examination request ratio,

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means, estimated examination request ratio acquisition means, examination request productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or utility model

applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

a function for making the estimated examination request ratio acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed within the third specified period, and calculate the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

a function for making the examination request productivity calculation means calculate the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

45.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

estimated examination request ratio acquisition means for acquiring the estimated examination request ratio,

examination request productivity calculation means for calculating the examination request productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated examination request productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means, estimated examination request ratio acquisition means, examination request productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired

publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or utility model applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the publication in which an examination request period has passed acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a third specified period so that the examination request period pass before tabulation;

a function for making the estimated examination request ratio acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications and the number of examination requests made in the applications from the unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications or utility model applications in a predetermined technical field filed within the third specified period, and calculate the estimated examination request ratio through dividing the acquired number of examination requests by the acquired number of patent applications;

a function for making the examination request productivity calculation means calculate the examination request productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated examination request ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated examination request productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

46.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent applications for each predetermined period,

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent registrations for each predetermined time,

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating the cumulative patent registration ratio for each predetermined time,

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating a future estimated registration ratio,

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the first official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, fourth official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation

44

means, fifth official gazette acquisition means, cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means, cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means, cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means, estimated registration ratio calculation means, patent acquisition productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the first official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the fourth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

a function for making the fifth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the

publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means acquire, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means acquire, fo r each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

a function for making the estimated registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculate the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculate a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

a function for making the patent acquisition productivity calculation means calculate the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

47.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent applications for each predetermined period,

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent registrations for each predetermined time,

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating the cumulative patent registration ratio for each predetermined time,

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating a future estimated registration ratio,

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the first official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, fourth official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means, fifth official gazette

acquisition means, cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means, cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means, cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means, estimated registration ratio calculation means, patent acquisition productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the first official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the fourth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average

48

period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

a function for making the fifth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means acquire, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means acquire, fo r each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

a function for making the estimated registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculate the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculate a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

a function for making the patent acquisition productivity calculation means calculate the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

48.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent applications for each predetermined period,

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent registrations for each predetermined time,

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating the cumulative patent registration ratio for each predetermined time,

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating a future estimated registration ratio,

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the first official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, fourth official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation

means, fifth official gazette acquisition means, cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means, cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means, cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means, estimated registration ratio calculation means, patent acquisition productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the first official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire number of inventions including the number of patent applications or the number of claims from the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the fourth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations, calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

a function for making the fifth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent

applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means acquire, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means acquire, fo r each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

a function for making the estimated registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculate the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculate a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

a function for making the patent acquisition productivity calculation means calculate the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

49.   (Original) An enterprise evaluation program executed by information processing means of an enterprise evaluation device, comprising:

first official gazette acquisition means for acquiring unexamined publications or publications of registrations from a database,

number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means for acquiring number of inventions per unit of applicants,

number-of-inventions acquisition means for acquiring the total number of inventions,

management-finance information acquisition means for acquiring R&D cost from a management-finance database,

patent application productivity calculation means for calculating the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity,

fourth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

average period required for registration calculation means for calculating the average period required for registration,

fifth official gazette acquisition means for acquiring publications of registrations from a database,

cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent applications for each predetermined period,

cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means for acquiring the cumulative number of patent registrations for each predetermined time,

cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means for calculating the cumulative patent registration ratio for each predetermined time,

estimated registration ratio calculation means for calculating a future estimated registration ratio,

patent acquisition productivity calculation means for calculating the patent acquisition productivity,

output means for outputting the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means or the like, and

information processing means capable of controlling the first official gazette acquisition means, number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means, number-of-inventions acquisition means, management-finance information acquisition means, patent application productivity calculation means, fourth official gazette acquisition means, average period required for registration calculation means, fifth official gazette

53

acquisition means, cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means, cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means, cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means, estimated registration ratio calculation means, patent acquisition productivity calculation means and output means,

wherein the information processing means realizes:

a function for making the first official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by a specified enterprise within a first specified period;

a function for making the number-of-inventions-per-applicant acquisition means acquire the number of patent applications or the number of claims from each of the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations, acquire the number of applicants indicated in each of the acquired publications, and acquire the number of inventions per unit of applicants through dividing the number of patent applications or the number of claims by the number of applicants;

a function for making the number-of-inventions acquisition means acquire the total number of inventions by counting the acquired number of inventions per unit of applicants for all of the acquired publications;

a function for making the management-finance information acquisition means acquire R&D cost in the specified enterprise within a second specified period from a management-finance database storing management-finance information of enterprises;

a function for making the patent application productivity calculation means calculate the number of inventions per unit of R&D cost as the patent application productivity through dividing the acquired number of inventions by the R&D cost;

a function for making the fourth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, publications of patent registrations subjected to registration from among the patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fourth specified period;

a function for making the average period required for registration calculation means calculate a required registration period for individual applications by subtracting a filing date from a registration date indicated in the acquired publications of registrations,

calculate an accumulated required registration period by counting the calculated required registration period for all patents subjected to the registration, and calculate the average period required for registration through dividing the accumulated required registration period by the total number of patents subjected to the registration;

a function for making the fifth official gazette acquisition means acquire, from a database, unexamined publications or publications of registrations based on patent applications in a predetermined technical field filed by the specified enterprise within a fifth specified period, and the publications of patent registrations subjected to registration by the arrival of a predetermined time from among the patent applications;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent applications acquisition means acquire, for each predetermined period, the cumulative number of patent applications filed by the specified enterprise within the specified period based on the acquired unexamined publications or publications of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative number of patent registrations acquisition means acquire, fo r each predetermined time, the cumulative number of patent registrations of patents subjected to registration by the arrival of each predetermined time based on the acquired publication of registrations;

a function for making the cumulative patent registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the cumulative patent registration ratio through dividing the acquired cumulative number of patent registrations by the cumulative number of patent applications;

a function for making the estimated registration ratio calculation means calculate, for each predetermined time, the natural logarithm of the cumulative patent registration ratio and calculate the regression line or regression curve thereof, and calculate a future estimated registration ratio by substituting the calculated average period required for registration for the calculated regression line or regression curve;

a function for making the patent acquisition productivity calculation means calculate the patent acquisition productivity by multiplying the calculated patent application productivity with the estimated registration ratio; and

a function for making the output means output the calculated patent acquisition productivity to display means, printing means, recording medium, or another telecommunications device via a communication line.

50.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to any one of claims 46 to 49,

wherein the publications of registrations are publications of patent registrations, publications of examined patent applications, publications of examined utility model applications or publications of utility model registrations,

wherein the unexamined publications are publications of unexamined patent applications, published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for patents, publications of unexamined utility model applications or published Japanese translations of PCT international applications for utility models; and

wherein, when the publications of registrations are utility model publications, the patent application refers to a utility model application, and the patent subjected to registration refers to a utility model subjected to registration.

51.   (Original) The enterprise evaluation device according to claims 30, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41, 44, 45, 48 or 49, wherein the predetermined technical field is a technical field classified by IPC sub-classes, keywords or inventors.

52.   (Canceled)

53.   (Canceled)

54.   (Canceled)